

THE NAVY.

Sharp Letter from ex-Secretary Welles to Secretary Robeson—The Promotion of Naval Officers—Secretary's Objections—Report Attacked as Containing Misstatements. HARTFORD, Jan. 10, 1870.—Hon. George M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy—Sir:—In your annual report as Secretary of the Navy, on the 1st of December, 1869, is the following paragraph:—

while, as was my duty, I acted on my own convictions, I gave weight and consideration to their opinions, and in some cases deferred, perhaps too far, to their suggestions. In a large portion of the cases our views coincided, but there were instances where favoritism, prejudice, or mistaken judgment was apparent. There were other instances where I was in possession of information unknown to the admirals, and where I could put a more correct estimate than the board on services rendered. They were, perhaps excusably, partial to those who had served under them; and perhaps some of them were prejudiced against and failed to rightly appreciate those of other commands.

orally or in writing, but after all the matter purely executive, not legislative. No Congressional action was taken, nor was any board of officers convened in the "cases already acted on by the administration." Such a board at this day would create discontent, and afford an opportunity for a master spirit to exercise partiality and form a clique devoted to his personal interests, if so inclined. I am aware of but two cases which have been "acted on by this administration." That you may have the full benefit of the action in these cases, I shall give you the facts of each, as they have been made exceptional.

needful repairs from want of funds, again called the attention of the Naval Committee and Congress to the facts. It was my wish that those who superseeded me should be relieved of the difficulties and embarrassments which I had experienced for three years, and I closed a very full and explicit communication, of the 29th of January, one year ago, as follows:—

tres changing the character of the vessels; but the department seems at present to be governed by no such restraints. You make no allusion to my several recommendations to Congress, but state that you have proceeded "to restore our small force to an effective condition" in "the shortest possible time;" and in an appendix you enumerate eighty-six vessels repaired and refitted for sea. A large number of the vessels thus enumerated, which you take credit for having refitted, are new and have never made a cruise.

PROPOSALS. PROPOSALS FOR STAMPED ENVELOPES AND WRAPPERS. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, JANUARY 10, 1870. Sealed Proposals will be received until 3 P. M. on the 1st day of MARCH, 1870, for furnishing all the "Stamped Envelopes" and "Newspaper Wrappers" which this Department may require during a period of four years, commencing 1st of July, 1870, viz:—

From the nature of the case, when a portion of the officers were to be superseded, and a large portion were to lose rank, it was impossible to have made selections which would be "satisfactory to the navy at large"—impossible to avoid some discontent. On the other point, that of making advancements independently of the action of the board, I may say, as the proceedings will show, that

As to appointing a board of officers to re-examine a subject that was disposed of nearly four years ago, you have the authority to convene such a board without Congressional action, and the board can report

My representations that year were not regarded, and, as a consequence, repairs and improvements were to a considerable extent suspended. A year after, and only a few weeks before leaving the department, I, in view of the injury to the vessels and property in the yards, by reason of the inability to make

These records are on the records of the department, and if you have not read them I respectfully commend them to your perusal. Congress, though fully informed of the condition of the vessels and their deteriorations, refused to make the required appropriations, and I, with my convictions of duty, had but one course to pursue, which was to limit the repairs within the means provided.

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Many of the guns are new, and all are serviceable. Bidders will therefore offer accordingly. The Bureau reserves the right to reject any or all bids which it may not consider to be in the interest of the Government to accept.

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